

**AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS:**

*The following listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application.*

**LISTING OF CLAIMS:**

Claim 1 (Original) A negative pressure type brake hydraulic pressure generating device comprising,

- a constant pressure chamber connected to a negative pressure source,
- a variable pressure chamber into which when a brake is operated, atmospheric air of an amount corresponding to the brake operating amount is introduced,
- a fixed shell for separating said negative pressure chamber and said constant pressure chamber from outside,
- an input shaft actuated by an operating force applied to a brake operating member,
- a piston which receives a pressure in said variable pressure chamber and a pressure in said constant pressure chamber on pressure receiving surfaces thereof and produces an advancing thrust by a differential pressure between said pressures,
- a spring for biasing said piston in a retracting direction,
- a power plate which receives said pressures in said variable pressure chamber and said constant pressure chamber on pressure receiving surfaces thereof and transmits an advancing thrust under said differential pressure, and
- a control valve built in said piston for controlling the pressure in said variable pressure chamber by selectively bringing said variable pressure chamber into

communication with the atmosphere or said negative pressure source depending on the relative movement between said input shaft and said piston,

said power plate and said piston being axially movable relative to each other,

said spring comprising a plurality of springs arranged in series so that the load of said spring relative to a brake operating amount will increase sharply from some time after the start of push-in of the brake pedal.

Claim 2 (Original) A negative pressure type brake hydraulic pressure generating device as claimed in claim 1 wherein a stopper is provided which restricts the deflection amount of at least one of said plurality of springs arranged in series to below a preset value such that deflection restriction by said stopper will develop while said input shaft is being pushed in to cause change in load increase of said spring relative to the brake operating amount.

Claim 3 (Original) A negative pressure type brake hydraulic pressure generating device as claimed in claim 1 wherein that springs having different spring constants are combined to cause change in the load increase of said spring relative to the brake operating amount.

Claim 4 (Currently Amended) A negative pressure type brake hydraulic pressure generating device as claimed in ~~any of claims 1-3~~ claim 1 wherein a pin is provided on said piston so as to extend through said power plate and protrude into said

constant pressure chamber, and wherein said spring is provided between a retainer provided at the tip of said pin and the inner surface of said fixed shell.

Claim 5 (New) A negative pressure type brake hydraulic pressure generating device as claimed in claim 2 wherein a pin is provided on said piston so as to extend through said power plate and protrude into said constant pressure chamber, and wherein said spring is provided between a retainer provided at the tip of said pin and the inner surface of said fixed shell.

Claim 6 (New) A negative pressure type brake hydraulic pressure generating device as claimed in claim 3 wherein a pin is provided on said piston so as to extend through said power plate and protrude into said constant pressure chamber, and wherein said spring is provided between a retainer provided at the tip of said pin and the inner surface of said fixed shell.